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PROPOSALS FOR PRINTING

A

General History of England

From the Flood, according to the best Traditional Account, to Julius Cæsar, and from thence out of the most Ancient Records, Manuscripts and Historians, down to the Reign of Their Present Majesties

King WILLIAM and Queen MARY,

Including the Lives of the Kings, and most Eminent Persons both in Church and State. Written by JAMES TYRRELL of Okely, in the County of Bucks, Esquire, Author of *Bibliotheca Politica*.

THE Complaint made by Sir William Temple in his late Introduction to the *History of England*, that we have not hitherto any good and approved General History of England, is well known to be no Novelty amongst those who converse with Learned Men or Books: And the same Complaint is to be found in the Prologue to Walsingham's History. This, together with Sir William Temple's judicious Reflection, viz. "That as it is a shame to be Ignorant in the Affairs of our own Country, so 'tis hardly worth the Time or Pains (and we shall add Expence) to be informed, since for that end a Man must read over a Library, rather than a Book) does unanswerably evince the Necessity of such an Undertaking.

The Books which we intend to consult for this Work, are those mentioned by Sir William Temple in his Introduction, and the rest which he was pleased to lend us, with all others of our Own and Foreign Historians of Reputation (both Latin and English) who treat of our Affairs, as mixt with their own.

We have moreover some Manuscripts already sent us, which will be of extraordinary Use in the prosecution of this Noble Design, and are assured of more from Persons of Eminent Quality, besides the Helps we promise our selves from the Correspondence that we have settled with divers Learned Men.

And that nothing may be wanting to compleat this Work, we do hereby invite all Ingenious and Learned Persons, and true Lovers of their Country, to communicate to us any Manuscripts, Memoirs, or Corrections which they have made in the Histories of England already publish'd, and we do assure them that they shall be carefully perus'd, and made use off for the Improvement of the Work, and faithfully and gratefully restored.

And for the further satisfaction of the Publick, we think fit to inform them, that the Learned Gentleman who has undertaken this Province, will take care that all Defects of former Authors be supplied, that nothing unworthy of the Noble Title of History be inferred, and that all manner of Partiality and Passion be avoided, so as not only our History, but the Constitution of our Government shall be better understood by this Work, than by any other yet Extant.

We conceive the great Authority of Sir William Temple, sufficient to convince any Man of the Great Usefulness of such an Undertaking; and before shall add, as a further Argument, that the Scarcity of several of the Authors whom we design to Consult, is such, that they are not to be purchas'd with Money, but reserv'd as Jewels of great Value by those who possess them, which of it self is enough to demonstrate the Advantage of this Design, above any other of this Nature, by which the Reader may have a better View of our History and Constitution, the Prerogatives of the King, and the Rights and Liberties of the People, than he can have at present, though he should put himself to the Expence of Buying, and fatigue of Reading all our Histories now Extant.

The Patterns which we propose for our Method are the Celebrated Historians, *Thuanus*, *Merzeray* and *Buchanan*, and we design to take in the History of the Church in conjunction with

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with that of the State, and by way of *Corallary* at the end of each *Century*, to take notice of the Variations and Changes in both.

We think it needless to insist any further on the *Nature of our Undertaking*, but hope, that as the bare Description of our Country, viz. *Camden's Britannia*, has deservedly found so much encouragement, the *General History* of the same shall not meet with less; for we have no reason to think that *Englishmen* have any cause to be ashame'd of their Ancestors, or to put a less Value upon the knowledge of the Noble Achievements of their Fore-Fathers, and the *Laws, Religion and Constitutions* by which they liv'd, than that of the Country in which they did inhabit.

Additional PROPOSALS.

Having procur'd so Able a Hand as that of *James Tyrrel*, Esquire, Author of *Publick & Politick* to undertake this great Work, (in whose Commendation it will be needless to say any thing, he being sufficiently known to understand the *English History and Constitution*) we think we have little more to add to what hath been already said in the aforesaid *Proposals*, then that the said Gentleman intends (God willing) to finish the *First Part* of this Work, (containing the *History of England, from the Flood to William the Conqueror*) within Six Months from January next ensuing; (he having long since prepared *Materials* for this Great Work,) in which he designs to Collect from the most *Ancient Records, Manuscripts and Historians*, not only the Civil, but also the Ecclesiastical History of this Kingdom; as that of the *Bishricks*, and Principal *Monasteries*, founded by the English *Saxon Kings* and others, with the Successions of all the chief Bishops, and Names of the most Famous Writers, who flourish'd in those Times; together with the Fundamental Laws and *Constitutions* of the *Saxon Government*, being the Basis of our Present Establishment. *A Work that never yet hath been performed by any other.*

PROPOSALS.

I. **T**hat this Work will contain as near as we can Judge about Four Hundred Sheets, Printed in Folio with the same Letter, as the Additional Proposals, and on Paper of the same Goodness.

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